

## Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 226279 TOSEC 270025

NODIS

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), AF

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM RAMSBOTHAM

1. SIR PETER RAMSBOTHAM SENT THE FOLLOWING REPLY TO MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY: QUOTE AS I UNDERTOOK TO DO WHEN I SAW THE SECRETARY THIS MORNING, I HAD ALREADY CONSULTED MY FOREIGN SECRETARY ON THE MATTERS THE SECRETARY RAISED WITH ME; IN PARTICULAR ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE. I HAVE NOW RECEIVED A REPLY FROM LONDON.

MR. CROSLAND HAS NOT BEEN ABLE IN THE TIME AVAILABLE TO CONSULT THE PRIME MINISTER BUT HIMSELF HAS SERIOUS MIS-GIVINGS ABOUT GOING SO FAR AS TO RESTORE A BUILT IN EUROPEAN MAJORITY IN THE COUNCIL OF STATE. BECAUSE, AS WE KNOW, THERE ARE CLEAR ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES INHERENT IN BOTH VERSIONS, MR. CROSLAND SUGGESTS THAT AT THIS STAGE THE NEATEST SOLUTION WOULD BE TO LEAVE THE QUESTION OPEN. THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY CHANGING THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 8 (1) OF THE AMENDED VERSION OF ANNEX C SUBSTITUTING "EUROPEANS/AFRICANS" FOR "AFRICANS"

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AND "EUROPEAN/AFRICAN" FOR "AFRICAN".

WE ARE, OF COURSE, AGREED THAT WE SHOULD RETAIN THE NEW PROVISIONS FOR THE SELECTION PROCESS OF MEMBERS SET OUT IN THE AMENDED VERSION OF PARAGRAPH 8. AS YOU KNOW MY GOVERNMENT ATTACHES MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS.

AT OUR MEETING THIS MORNING THE SECRETARY ALSO MENTIONED THAT THROUGH MR. BOTHA, MR. VORSTER HAD BEEN QUESTIONING WHY THE ECONOMIC PAPER OMITTED SPECIFIC FIGURES. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT, IN HIS TALK WITH MR. SMITH, MR. VORSTER WOULD BE WORKING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE FIGURES HE HAD AGREED IN ZURICH WERE STILL CORRECT. THE SECRETARY ASKED WHETHER WE WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO MR. VORSTER USING THESE FIGURES WITH MR. SMITH. MR. CROSLAND IS PUZZLED BY THIS. OUR UNDERSTANDING AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING IN LONDON ON 6 SEPTEMBER WAS THAT THE SECRETARY HAD GIVEN ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE FIGURES TO MR. VORSTER, THE DETAILS OF WHICH ARE NOT KNOWN TO US. UNLESS THIS POINT CAN BE CLARIFIED IN THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE, AND BRITISH MINISTERS ARE ABLE TO AGREE ON A SET OF FIGURES FOR MR. VORSTER TO QUOTE TO MR. SMITH ON TUESDAY, ANY FIGURES THE SECRETARY GIVES WOULD HAVE TO BE ON HIS OWN AUTHORITY ALONE. END QUOTE

2. SIR JOHN MORETON THEN CALLED TO SAY THAT ALTHOUGH CROSLAND HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET HOLD OF THE PRIME MINISTER THEY WANTED US TO KNOW THAT IT IS THEIR IMPRESSION THAT CALLAHAN ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE AGREED POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF MAJORITY IN THE COUNCIL OF STATE. ACCORDING TO MORETON, THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NOT SEEN THE ORIGINAL DRAFT BUT DID SPECIFICALLY AGREE TO THE FINAL DRAFT.

3. MORETON ASKED IF IN VIEW OF THE TIME LIMIT FOR A REPLY SET BY THE SECRETARY, WHICH COULD NOT BE MET, DID WE WISH TO PURSUE THE MATTER ANY FURTHER. I REPLIED THAT I WAS SURE THE SECRETARY WOULD WANT THIS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE PRIME MINISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (I LATER CONFIRMED THIS AFTER A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE SECRETARY.) MORETON SAID HE WOULD ASK LONDON TO DO SO  
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BUT THAT IT WAS THE EMBASSY'S OPINION THAT CALLAHAN WOULD NOT AGREE TO A RETURN TO THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL. HE THEN CALLED ATTENTION TO CROSLAND'S SUGGESTION THAT THE NEATER SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO LEAVE THE QUESTION OF THE COM- POSITION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE OPEN AT THIS POINT IN TIME. ROBINSON

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